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United States Patent [19]

Biggs

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[54] **SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING AMENITIES THROUGH A PUBLIC TELEPHONE NETWORK**

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[58] Field of Search 358/84–86; 379/91, 144, 114, 115, 155, 90, 105, 110

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[57]   **ABSTRACT**

An amenity accessing system is provided that includes
an access telephone (10) with a plurality of access keys.
The telephone includes a line powered card reader (62)
that interfaces with a CPU (60). Information stored in a
memory (70) can then be output in response to a good
card received by the card reader (62), this information
being in the form of a calling string. The calling string
is output to a switched network (22) and a store-and-
forward switch (20). The store-and-forward switch (20)
is operable to receive the calling string containing infor-
mation as to the user's ID, credit card information,
location of the access phone (10) and other relevant
data. This billing information is validated at the store-
and-forward switch (20) and, upon validation, an autho-
rization code is then transmitted through a switched
network (22) to one of various amenities (24)-(40). Bill-
ing information is then stored at the store-and-forward
switch (20) and transmitted to various outclearing ser-
vices through a storage media (44).

20 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets